

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Miss Willa Cather, author of "The Troll Garden," a volume of dramatic and emotional tales of life among the artists and high social Bohemians of New York, is a western woman and a graduate of the University of Nebraska. She was born in Winchester, Va., but when only 10 years old moved to a ranch in southwestern Nebraska, a country sparsely settled by Danes and Norwegians, where she ran wild, spending most of her time in the open, on horseback. After leaving college she took up newspaper work and was connected with the Nebraska State Journal and the Pittsburgh Leader, doing literary and dramatic criticism. Her first published work was "April Twilight," a book of verse, which brought her a great deal of attention from critics. She is now teaching school in Pittsburgh. The book is published by McClure, Phillips & Co.

"Back Home" by Eugene Wood, is the title of a book composed of a series of casual, almost lazy, sketches dealing with any little rural American village or community, and characterized by soft, gentle and sympathetic caricature and keen observation. The author makes a gallery of pictures that is pointed and amusing; presents a carnival of characteristic events that cannot fail to bring a pleased smile of memory to any country-bred man. "The Old Swimming Hole," "The Little Red Schoolhouse," "The Firemen's Tournament," "Circus Day," "The Country Fair" are some of the subjects upon which he turns his memory and his genial philosophy, making a book that is essentially and typically American. The volume stamps Mr. Wood as a humorist to be classed with the "Mark Twain" of "Huckleberry Finn." James Whitcomb Riley and Gene Field. Mr. Wood was country-bred, such as those that figure in his book, and lived in Ohio. He is now, however, a city dweller, with a home in Brooklyn. McClure, Phillips & Co. are the publishers.

"The Sa-Zada Tales" by W. A. Fraser, are the tales told by the animals gathered at a "zoo" in India to their keeper, Sa-Zada. They are stories of adventure and danger, of life in jungle and town, in desert and camp, told from the point of view of the animals. These animals themselves offer a surprising variety, from the elephant, the jackal, and the tiger to the monkey, cobra, wild boar and crocodile, and the range of their adventures, and the entertaining revelations of their characters and habits, as they appear in these stories, are a remarkable exhibition of literary power and versatility on the part of Mr. Fraser. The years that he spent in India have given him a sense of the life there and the power of reproducing the atmosphere of civilization and of the wilds, that transports one to that part of the world in a surprising way. The fruit of these experiences is gathered together in this new book, which is without doubt one of the most vivid and entertaining collections of animal stories that has ever been published. The illustrations, by Mr. Arthur Heming, are more than twenty in number, and as varied and as striking as the stories. The book is from the press of Charles Scribner's Sons.

"Terence, O'Rourke—Gentleman Adventurer," by Louis Joseph Vance, receives its title from the intrepid hero of the tale, who is the typical educated Irish gentleman, with an aborn love of fighting, fair play and pretty women. The scene is laid in Paris, Africa, Egypt, where not? And ever the dashing O'Rourke with his indomitable courage and warm heart is to the fore. Mr. Vance writes with the combined accuracy of fact and fertility of imagination. In O'Rourke he has given us a modern D'Artagnan, whose fame will endure like that of the great prototype, of whom, however, he is by no means a copy. Published by the A. Wessels company.

The announcement is made in the March Housekeeper that Marion Bonsall, the associate editor, has been sent to Japan to study Japanese home life and to glean from it those secrets which are of most interest to American women. It is promised that the treatment of the articles will be unlike anything that has been written before about the mikado's kingdom and will be of absorbing interest. Gertrude Bacon, the daughter of Prof. Bacon, the celebrated balloonist, contributes an illustrated article, "My Adventures Above the Clouds." A striking picture is drawn of the rare delights and thrilling escapes of the aeronauts who strike into the unknown for the sake of science.

"The Princess Passes," by C. N. and A. M. Williamson, is a humorous automobile romance by the authors of "The Lightning Conductor." A charming American girl and a susceptible Englishman travel through northern France and Switzerland to the Italian lakes and thence among the Valois Alps to Nice and Monte Carlo. About half the travel is by automobile; the rest is in an Alpine walking tour. The book has proved so popular that a sixth edition has already been printed. It is illustrated with drawings by Edward Penfield and photographs of the scenes of the story. The book is published by Henry Holt & Co.

A very neat, attractive and valuable little volume, entitled, "Correct Bridge," has just been published by Rand, McNally & Co. For the beginner it covers every portion of the game in clear, concise language and fully explains the reason for each play. The advanced player will find many interesting points in the illustrated hands, of which there are twenty. The game of bridge has a set of laws all its own and they are given in full.

"The Storm Center," by Charles Egbert Craddock, is a war story, but more of flir-
tation, love and courtship than of fighting or history. It is a simple and pleasing tale of a wounded union officer in a house held strongly in sympathy with the confederate cause. The officer falls in love with the young lady of the house, and the son of the family, a dashing young confederate officer, comes back to see his family. While there the rebel officer secures information that enables the southern army to gain an important strategical advantage, and the union officer is eventually court-martialed. The tale is light and entertaining and thoroughly readable, and the background is that associated with Miss Murfee's well-known fame. Published by the Macmillan company.

Town Topics continues to come out regularly just the same as it did before its conflict with Collier's. In the last number Colonel Mann, over his own signature, makes a statement in which he insists that in all the litigation no protest has been presented that "any sum of money or any favor or consideration of any sort or character from an person as a consideration for kindly paragraphs in Town Topics or for the suppression of unkind paragraphs" has ever been asked for or received. The statement concludes with an offer to pay to any public charity the sum of \$1,000 if anyone can present an evidence of blackmail by any person authorised to represent him in Town Topics.

The above books at lowest retail prices. Matthews, 12 South Fifteenth street.

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Note These Important Bargains For REMNANT DAY

FRENCH AND ENGLISH VALENCIENNES SAMPLE STRIPS OF LACE Many With Insertions to Match AT 5C A STRIP

These very fine laces are remnants, trial strips and manufacturers' sample pieces—come in both lace and insertions, many to match—also fine net top laces, many of them matched. Scores are all this season's new patterns, beautiful white, cream and ecru effects.
Mostly Yard Lengths and up to 1½ yd.
In Full Pieces this Lace would sell up to 25c yd.—ENTIRE STRIP for

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